5. Porambokes.

Revd. Fr. A. J. Michael (Member, T. I. C., Kayenkulam) suggested the desirability of surveying and demarcating all the *poramboke* lands in the State, so as to enable the people to know the exact limits of such lands and to avoid vexatious *poramboke* cases being started according to the whims of the taluk surveyors. Proceedings were often taken under the Land Conservancy Regulation against people who were not the actual trespassers, but who were only the successors in title of the original trespassers. Such prosecutions were hard because the parties came into possession of the lands in good faith, and therefore lenient consideration was necessary. He added that belated prosecutions were due to the failure and indifference on the part of the village officers in the matter of the prompt detection of encroachments. Long possession for 12 years and more should operate against the right of the Government to prosecute a man for encroachment on Sirkar land, in accordance with the principle recognised by civil courts. The Member also pointed out that prosecutions conducted in respect of *poramboke* lands adjoining roads, canals etc., and against the owners of shops built on Sirkar market sites in pursuance of the permission granted by a Government Circular of 1045, were painful to the parties concerned. He, therefore, requested that prosecutions against persons who had long possession of *poramboke* lands might be ordered to be stopped and that, in cases in which the *poramboke* lands adjoining roads, canals etc., were limited in extent, and contained buildings or parts of buildings, such lands should be ordered to be registered in the names of the occupants on payment of a *Vilayartham*.

Dewan's reply.—Individual cases will be considered on their merits. It is not possible to lay down any general rule.

6. The desirability of reducing the tharavila, thadivila and tax on Puduval lands in the Ranni and Kumbazha pakuthies.

Mr. C. P. Krishna Pillai (Member, Chengannur taluk) said that, out of the 12,000 acres of Sirkar land available for registry within the surveyed limits in the taluk, applications for registry had been received in respect of about 10,000 acres. But most of the applicants were withdrawing their applications. That was due not to the absence of demand for land from the people of the State but to the enhancement of the *tharavila* from Rs. 3 to Rs. 15 per acre. No doubt, a few lands were purchased from private persons by some rubber planters at a high acreage value, but those lands lay on the sides of roads or rivers. The lands still remaining to be registered were in the interior of the *pakuthies*, so much so that even the timber standing on such lands was not of much value to the applicants, owing to the absence of transport facilities.

Dewan.—If the applicants are not willing to take up the timber on the lands, would it be a relief to them if the Government should order the removal of the tree-growth through the Forest Department?

Member.—If the removal could be effected within a reasonably short time, the applicants will, I think, have no objection.

The Member, continuing, said that the tax of one rupee per acre also pressed heavily on the people. He, therefore, prayed for the reduction of the *tharavila* and assessment to Rs. 3 and fanams 5 per acre respectively. He added that, if that were done, the extensive areas still available would be very soon brought under registry.

Dewan's reply.—The Dewan Peishkar, Quilon and the Conservator of Forests will be asked to report on the Member's representations.

7. The hardships suffered by the ryots of Nanjinad in paying their paddy and money tax, on account of the different measures now in use.

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) observed that, with the introduction of the rules under the Weights and Measures Regulation, the *marakal* was adopted as the standard measure for the Tovala and Agastiswaram

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taluks and that its rate of equivalence was fixed at 4·4583 edangalies, calculating for the purpose a *Kotta* as being equal to 9 paras and $3\frac{5}{8}$ edangalies. He said that the above rate of equivalence was not adopted after correctly ascertaining the accurate cubical capacity of the real *Kotta* measure, nor was it based on the standard *Kotta* fixed by Government in G. O. No. 15436/R. 6634, dated the 13th September 1906, which was equal to 8 paras and $6\frac{1}{2}$ edangalies. The tax on the lands in Nanjinad due to the Sreepandaravagai and other institutions or persons had to be paid in paddy, and, in so paying the tax, the ryots would suffer great loss and hardship by the adoption of the standard measure prescribed. He, therefore, requested that the portion of the tax now being paid in kind be also converted into money at the commutation rate, that the actual capacity of the *Kotta* measure be correctly ascertained and fixed after a careful enquiry and that, till that was done, the introduction of the present *marakal* measure be postponed.

He also presented a memorial signed by several ryots of the taluks of Tovala and Agastiswaram, containing their grievances in the matter of the different measures adopted in the taluks.

Dewan's reply.—Noted for consideration.

8. The desirability of registering Poramboke and Puduval lands in the names of Pariahs for their occupation.

Mr. Kandan Kumaran (Member, Nominated) conveyed to the Government and the Dewan the thanks of his community for nominating for the first time one from the community as a member of the Assembly. He pointed out that members of his community were lying scattered in different parts of the State and that they lived like wild beasts, far from the haunts of men. They often cultivated *puduval* and other lands ; but when the time for registry came, they were not only deprived of the lands they cultivated but also of the value of the improvements thereon. He said that they used to occupy Sirkar lands and cultivate the same freely in the olden days, but that it had become impossible now. He therefore prayed that, in places where members of his community could be found, all available Sircar lands might be ordered to be registered in their names in convenient blocks, and that they might also be permitted to cultivate portions of reserved forests suitable for Kanni and Kumbhom cultivation with profit to themselves and to the Government and without detriment to the interests of forest conservancy.

Dewan's reply.—A report will be called for from the Dewan Peishkars on the Member's representations.

(2) Forest Revenue.

9. The desirability of allowing trees standing within and outside Forest Reserves to be cut down after realising the seigniorage value, and of issuing teak to the public from the minor depots at reduced tariff rates.

Mr. Ittoop Ittiachan (Member, Kunnatnad taluk) said that the present system of engaging contractors for working down timber from the forests was detrimental to the interests of both the Government and the public. As an instance in point, the tariff rate for Iruppul, one of the jungle-wood trees, was Rs. 11 per candy. The contractor had to be paid Chs. 13 per cubic foot or Rs. $7\frac{1}{4}$ per candy by way of *kolevila*. The net profit to the Government was therefore only Rs. $3\frac{3}{4}$ per candy, while the public would have to pay at least Rs. 16 per candy including the transport charges. If, on the other hand, the tree was disposed of after realising the seigniorage value, neither the Government nor the public would have to incur any needless loss. Till 1078, the Government had permitted the removal of Iruppul and other forest trees on payment of Rs. $1\frac{1}{2}$ per candy. But in 1079, the seigniorage rate was raised to Rs. 4 per candy and subsequently to As. 4 per cubic foot. The Forest Department had, however, never permitted the removal of such trees on payment of the above seigniorage rate as ordered by the Government. The Member added

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